

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 118-75
30 JULY 1975

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FROM SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON MONDAY. SOARES CRITICIZED RIBEIRO FOR COLLABORATING WITH THE SALAZAR AND CAETANO REGIMES. RIBEIRO IS CLOSER TO THE CENTER-LEFT POPULAR DEMOCRATS.4

PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES HAS POSTPONED HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE HELSINKI SUMMIT UNTIL FRIDAY, PROBABLY TO ATTEND THE SWEARING IN OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. PRESUMABLY THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER-MAJOR ANTUNES IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE REAPPOINTED TO THAT POSITION-WILL ACCOMPANY COSTA GOMES TO THE SUMMIT.4

PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO IS A LEADING CANDIDATE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER: COUTINHO, WHO HEADED THE GOVERNING JUNTA IN ANGOLA UNTIL LAST JANUARY, HAS NOT MADE PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS IN HIS FOREIGN CONTACTS. HE ATTENDED THE NATO SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS IN MAY AND TRAVELED TO WEST GERMANY LAST MONTH. ALTHOUGH PLEASANT, HE WAS REGARDED AS NAIVE. COUTINHO, ACCORDING TO PASS REPORTS, IS OF VAGUE LEFT NATIONALIST

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POLITICAL VIEWS AND IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN FURTHERING HIS OWN CAREER.4

ASIDE FROM THE MEETING BETWEEN COSTA GOMES AND ANTUNES
ON MONDAY, MODERATES IN THE MILITARY HAVE MAINTAINED A
LOW PROFILE, TOUCHING BASE WITH FRIENDLY MILITARY UNITS. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. USSR: THREE MAJOR PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES COULD PRESAGE FURTHER RESHUFFLING AS THE APPOINTEES ESTABLISH THEIR PERSONAL STAFFS. THE NEW FACES IN THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND ARE:

--LT. GEN. VIKTOR YAKOVLEVICH ABOLINS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF. ABOLINS, WHOSE APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY CHIEF WAS FIRST NOTED ON JULY 19, HAD LAST BEEN IDENTIFIED IN 1974 AS A MAJOR GENERAL AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CARPATHIAN MILITARY DISTRICT. HE HAD SERVED AS COMMANDER OF THE 30TH MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION WITH THE CENTRAL GROUP OF FORCES IN CZECHO-

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SLOVAKIA IN 1970 AND WAS BELIEVED TO BE STATIONED IN THE MOSCOW MILITARY DISTRICT AS OF 1972. ABOLINS' APPOINTMENT MAY BE AN EFFORT TO BEEF UP THE GENERAL STAFF COMMAND OR HE MAY HAVE REPLACED ONE OF THE INCUMBENT DEPUTIES TO THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, ARMY GEN. VIKTOR KULIKOV.4

--LT. GEN. OF AVIATION GEORGIY PETROVICH SKORIKOV, CHIEF OF THE MAIN DIRECTORATE OF FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE (10TH DIRECTORATE). SKORIKOV, 55, WAS PROMOTED TO HIS NEW POST IN APRIL, AFTER SERVING FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AS THE DIRECTORATE'S DEPUTY CHIEF. HE SUCCEEDS 74-YEAR-OLD NIKOLAY DAGAYEV, WHO RETIRED. BEFORE HIS ASSIGNMENT TO THE 10TH DIRECTORATE, SKORIKOV HAD SERVED WITH THE SOVIET AIR FORCE IN GERMANY DURING THE LATE 1960S, PROBABLY AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF.4

--MAJ. GEN. MAKHMUT AKHMETOVICH GAREYEV, CHIEF OF THE MILITARY SCIENTIFIC DIRECTORATE. GAREYEV WAS IDENTIFIED IN HIS NEW POST IN APRIL, WHEN HE ATTENDED

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MUCH OF SOUTHERN CHINA EARLIER IN THE YEAR HELD BACK PLANT GROWTH. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE EARLY RICE CROP IS LIKELY TO FALL SHORT OF THE EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD CROP LAST YEAR.//Y

//FALL-HARVESTED GRAIN, NORMALLY 60 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL, IS OFF TO A GOOD START, BUT THE SIZE OF THE FALL HARVEST WILL BE LARGELY DETERMINED BY THE WEATHER OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. GROWING CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE EXCEPT IN NORTHEASTERN CHINA, WHERE CROPS WERE HELD BACK BY A SPRING DROUGHT.//Y

//WITH NORMAL WEATHER OVER THE REST OF THE GROWING SEASON, CHINA SHOULD PRODUCE AN AUTUMN CROP MUCH GREATER THAN THE POOR CROP OF LAST YEAR. {SECRET}//Y

2. TAIWAN-JAPAN: THE NATIONALIST CHINESE ARE SUPPORTING THEIR CLAIMS TO THE SENKAKU ISLANDS BY CONDUCTING REGULAR NAVAL PATROLS IN THE AREA. A RECENT INFLUX OF SOUTH KOREAN AND JAPANESE FISHING BOATS MAY HAVE PROMPTED THE NATIONALISTS TO ESTABLISH THESE PATROLS. SINCE THEN, FOREIGN TRABLERS HAVE STAYED OUTSIDE TAIWAN'S CLAIMED THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT. THE JAPANESE, TOO, CLAIM THE ISLANDS.

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 118-75.14

1. NIGERIA: THE OVERTHROW OF GENERAL GOWON IN TUESDAY'S BLOODLESS MILITARY COUP APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. NO OVERT OPPOSITION TO THE COUP AMONG THE MILITARY OR CIVILIAN POPULATION HAS YET SURFACED. GOWON APPARENTLY IS STILL IN KAMPALA, UGANDA, WHERE HE HAD BEEN ATTENDING THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING.4

SEVERAL CHANGES IN NIGERIA'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED, WITH MORE LIKELY TO COME. THE NEW CHIEF OF STATE AND COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES IS BRIGADIER MURTALA MOHAMMED, A 37-YEAR-OLD HAUSA TRIBESMAN FROM NORTHERN NIGERIA. HE PLAYED A KEY PART IN THE JULY 1966 COUP THAT EVENTUALLY ELEVATED GOWON TO POWER AND HAS SINCE HAD A CHECKERED HISTORY OF ALLEGIANCE TO GOWON.4

OTHER KEY APPOINTMENTS INCLUDE:4

--BRIGADIER OBASSANJO, A YORUBA, AS CHIEF OF STAFF AT SUPREME HEADQUARTERS.304

--THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER BRIGADIER

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DANJUNA, A MINORITY TRIBESMAN FROM NORTHERN NIGERIA, AS ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. 334

--MOHAMMED YUSUFU, A FULANI FROM NORTHERN NIGERIA, ASPECTOR INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE. 4

THE APPOINTMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED THUS FAR SEEM TO REFLECT A BALANCE OF NIGERIA'S COMPETING TRIBAL AND REGIONAL INTERESTS. COLONEL GARBA, THE HEAD OF THE BRIGADE OF GUARDS WHO FIRST ANNOUNCED THE COUP, HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED TO A POSITION. 4

NONE OF THE APPOINTEES SERVED UNDER GOWON ON THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, NIGERIA'S HIGHEST DECISION-MAKING BODY. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT MADE ANY POLICY STATEMENTS THUS FAR, WHAT LITTLE IS KNOWN OF SOME OF THE APPOINTEES SUGGESTS THEY MAY BE INCLINED TO PURSUE A SOMEWHAT MORE NATIONALIST AND LESS CONSERVATIVE COURSE THAN DID THE GOWON REGIME.

NIGERIA'S NEW MILITARY RULERS MAY HAVE MOVED AGAINST GOWON BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY REGARDED AS HIS INDECISIVE STYLE OF LEADERSHIP AND THEIR OWN EXCLUSION FROM

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POLICY-MAKING POSITIONS. THE COUP ALSO CAME AT A TIME WHEN GRUMBLING WAS INCREASING AMONG BOTH CIVILIANS AND THE MILITARY OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S SEEMING DRIFT IN THE FACE OF ACCUMULATING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, SUCH AS INFLATION, COMMODITY SHORTAGES, AND UNEMPLOYMENT.4

THE STATUS OF GOWON'S FORMER SENIOR COLLEAGUES ON THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND THE COMMANDERS OF THE ARMY'S OTHER PRINCIPAL UNITS IS UNCLEAR. NIGERIA'S FRAGILE POST - CIVIL WAR POLITICAL STABILITY COULD BE UNDONE IF THE NEW REGIME DOES NOT RECEIVE BROAD SUPPORT FROM OTHER ARMY LEADERS. GOWON'S ROLE IN MAINTAINING STABILITY RESTED IN LARGE PART ON THE FACT THAT HE CAME FROM A MINORITY TRIBE AND TOOK A CONSENSUS APPROACH TO TRY TO SOLVE NIGERIA'S DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

2. SUDAN-ETHIOPIA: ETHIOPIAN MEDIA REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN SUDAN APPEARS TO BE EXAGGERATED.4

ADDIS ABABA CLAIMS THAT SINCE EARLY JULY NEARLY 12,000 SUDANESE HAVE FLED INTO ETHIOPIA FROM FIGHTING THAT HAS

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BROKEN OUT IN SOUTHERN SUDAN BETWEEN TRIBES. ONE TRIBE, ACCORDING TO THE ETHIOPIANS, IS RECEIVING MODERN WEAPONS FROM THE NORTHERN-DOMINATED SUDANESE ARMY.

ACCORDING TO A UN OFFICIAL WHO HAS VISITED THE BORDER AREA, THE REFUGEES SAY THEY LEFT SUDAN BECAUSE OF CONTINUING STRIFE BETWEEN NORTHERNERS AND SOUTHERNERS. THEY HAVE MADE NO MENTION OF A CIVIL WAR.

//ALTHOUGH THE BLACK, CHRISTIAN, AND ANIMIST SOUTHERN SUDANESE ARE FEARFUL THAT KHARTOUM WILL PUSH FOR THE "ARABIZATION" OF THE REGION, THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT THE LONG CIVIL WAR, WHICH ENDED IN 1972, IS BEING RENEWED. THERE WAS A MUTINY IN MARCH AT AKOBO, NEAR THE SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN BORDER, IN A BATTALION MANNED BY FORMER SOUTHERN REBELS, BUT IT REPORTEDLY WAS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT. SOME MUTINEERS APPARENTLY DID TAKE TO THE BUSH.

//SOUTHERN SUDAN HAS STILL NOT RECOVERED ECONOMICALLY FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE PROTRACTED CIVIL WAR; KHARTOUM HAS BEEN UNABLE TO COME UP WITH THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO RECONSTRUCT.

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THE CAXITO AREA-AND WILL STRENGTHEN ANY FRONT EFFORTS TO BARGAIN ITS WAY BACK INTO THE CAPITAL.4

IN LUANDA, FRICTION BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY AND THE POPULAR MOVEMENT HAS BEEN INCREASING AS A RESULT OF RECENT CLASHES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THE POPULAR MOVEMENT IS REFUSING TO SURRENDER SEVERAL OF ITS TROOPS, WHO ATTACKED PORTUGUESE COMMANDOS LAST WEEKEND, AND HAS DEMANDED THAT LISBON WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM THE TERRITORY IMMEDIATELY.4

THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY COMMANDER IS TRYING TO UPHOLD A POLICY OF STRICT NEUTRALITY AND PROBABLY WILL NOT ALLOW THE CURRENT STANDOFF TO ESCALATE INTO A MAJOR CONFRONTATION.4

THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE BROKEN DOWN COMPLETELY, AND THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE THAT IT CAN BE REORGANIZED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

4. INDIA: THE SOVIET-ORIENTED COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA IS TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS AND THE RULING CONGRESS PARTY'S CALL FOR COOPERATION FROM "LIKE-MINDED PARTIES" TO IMPROVE ITS POLITICAL POSITION.4

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COMMUNIST LEADERS HOPE TO MAKE RULING CONGRESS POLITICIANS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER GANDHI, MORE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THEM BY PUBLICLY SUPPORTING HER RECENT CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL MOVES AND HER NEW ECONOMIC PROGRAM. THE COMMUNISTS WOULD LIKE TO MOVE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FURTHER TO THE LEFT AND APPARENTLY BELIEVE THEY CAN EXPLOIT WORKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE RULING CONGRESS PARTY TO WIDEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ITS LEFT AND RIGHT WINGS.4

THE COMMUNISTS ARE ENERGETICALLY COURTING RULING CONGRESS PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AT THE STATE LEVEL. SO FAR, THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ESTABLISHING "JOINT ACTION" PROGRAMS WITH THEM IN SEVEN OF INDIA'S 22 STATES. IN MANIPUR, THE RULING CONGRESS PARTY HAS INVITED THE COMMUNISTS TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT.4

PRIME MINISTER GANDHI APPARENTLY BELIEVES SHE CAN GAIN IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGE FROM CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS AT LITTLE COST. COÖPERATION WITH THEM SERVES TO STRENGTHEN HER "PROGRESSIVE" CREDENTIALS, REPRESENTS A GOOD-WILL GESTURE TO MOSCOW FOR ITS PUBLIC SUPPORT, AND TENDS TO PRESERVE

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THE LONG-TIME SPLIT IN INDIA'S COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.4

GANDHI KNOWS THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE AWARE THAT THE RULING CONGRESS PARTY, WITH SECURE MAJORITIES IN MOST STATES, DOES NOT NEED COMMUNIST SUPPORT IN ORDER TO RULE. THE PRIME MINISTER, IN FACT, HAS RESISTED OVERTURES FROM THE COMMUNISTS IN STATES WHERE HER PARTY'S MAJORITIES ARE THIN.4

GANDHI STILL HAS NOT MOVED AGAINST THE OPPOSITION "PEOPLE'S FRONT" GOVERNMENT IN GUJARAT WHICH, LAST SATURDAY, MOUNTED A LARGE DEMONSTRATION IN OPEN DEFIANCE OF EMERGENCY REGULATIONS.4

THE FRONT HOLDS ONLY A SLIM MAJORITY IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND IS WEAKENED BY STRONG INTERNAL DIFFERENCES. GANDHI COULD REMOVE THE PEOPLE'S FRONT AND RULE GUJARAT DIRECTLY BY DECLARING PRESIDENT'S RULE. SHE IS MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER, TO TRY TO ACHIEVE THE SAME END BY WORKING TO TOPPLE THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

5. LEBANON: IN HIS FIRST MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT SINCE BECOMING PRIME MINISTER EARLY THIS MONTH, RASHID KARAMI PROPOSED ON JULY 27 THAT LEBANON DISCARD THE SYSTEM OF CONFESSIONAL

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BALANCE ON WHICH THE COUNTRY'S UNWRITTEN "NATIONAL COVENANT" IS BASED. THE EXISTING SYSTEM, WHICH IS BUILT ON THE QUESTIONABLE PREMISE THAT CHRISTIANS OUTNUMBER MUSLIMS IN LEBANON, HAS SERVED TO ENSURE CHRISTIAN CONTROL OF THE PRESIDENCY AND THE ARMY.4

KARAMI, A SUNNI MUSLIM, DECLARED THAT HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY. THIS MAY BE MORE AN EFFORT TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE CONFESSIONAL PROBLEM THAN A SERIOUS DECLARATION OF INTENT TO SEEK THE OFFICE. PARLIAMENT WILL PICK A SUCCESSOR TO PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH NEXT YEAR.4

ACCORDING TO SEVERAL UNCONFIRMED REPORTS, KARAMI MAY HAVE PERSUADED FRANJIYAH TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE COUNTRY'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP THAT WOULD REDUCE THE PROPORTION OF CHRISTIANS IN THE MOST VISIBLE POSTS. KARAMI REPORTEDLY WANTS TO PLACE MUSLIM AND DRUZE OFFICERS IN PROMINENT STAFF JOBS.4

ARMY COMMANDER ISKANDAR GHANIM MAY BE ONE CASUALTY OF THESE CHANGES. ALTHOUGH HE HAS LONG BEEN A CONFIDANT OF THE

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PRESIDENT, GHANIM RECENTLY HAS COME IN FOR ESPECIALLY HEAVY CRITICISM FROM LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND MUSLIMS AND FROM THE PALESTINIANS.4

GHANIM'S SUCCESSOR, ACCORDING TO PERSISTENT BUT UNCONFIRMED RUMORS IN BEIRUT, WILL BE JULES BUSTANI, CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. BUSTANI, LIKE GHANIM, IS A MARONITE CHRISTIAN. HE HAS HAD SOMEWHAT GREATER SUCCESS IN NEGOTIATING WITH LEFTIST AND FEDAYEEN LEADERS, HOWEVER, AND HIS APPOINTMENT WOULD REMOVE ONE IRRITANT TO LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS.4

KARAMI ALSO ANNOUNCED AN AMBITIOUS HOUSING PROGRAM AND UNSPECIFIED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR POOR AREAS OF BEIRUT. RESIDENTS OF THESE AREAS, DISENCHANTED WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS, OFFERED SANCTUARY TO SOME LEFTISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT CIVIL UNREST IN THE CITY.4

THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSALS CONSTITUTE AN UNUSUALLY FORCEFUL ATTACK ON LEBANON'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH AT PRESENT THEY REPRESENT ONLY HIS HOPES RATHER THAN A CONCRETE PROGRAM. THEIR NOVELTY AND EXPENSE WILL DRAW

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PARLIAMENT ONLY LAST WEEK APPROVED AN ANNUAL BUDGET THAT INCLUDES WHAT FOR LEBANON IS A RARITY—DEFICIT SPENDING. COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT ARE NOW CONSIDERING HOW TO INCREASE TAXES TO COVER THE DEFICIT, BUT THEY WILL BE RELUCTANT TO GO BEYOND PRESENT COMMITMENTS TO RISK BACKING KARAMI'S INNOVATIVE POLICIES. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET-H

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 118-75-Y

1. ARGENTINA: ARGENTINE PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA PERON APPARENTLY IS GIVING TO GROWING PRESSURES TO STEP ASIDE, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.

[REDACTED] SHE PLANS TO MAKE A MAJOR ADDRESS TO THE NATION--POSSIBLY JULY 30--AND AFTERWARD BEGIN A "BRIEF" LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHIN THE COUNTRY.Y

THE PRESIDENT MET WITH CABINET AND MILITARY OFFICIALS ON JULY 29 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE SHE FELL ILL MORE THAN A WEEK AGO.Y

[REDACTED] THAT ARMED FORCES COMMANDERS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE EXISTING POWER VACUUM MUST END. THE MILITARY IS STILL BELIEVED TO FAVOR A CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION.Y

A PERIOD OF CONVALESCENCE AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL COULD OPEN THE WAY FOR PERON TO BECOME A FIGUREHEAD OR TO CONFER POWER ON HER CONSTITUTIONAL SUCCESSOR, SENATE CHIEF ITALO LUDER. (CONFIDENTIAL)Y

2. VENEZUELA: THE LOWER HOUSE OF THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS HAS APPROVED LEGISLATION TO NATIONALIZE FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES. EASY SENATE PASSAGE IS EXPECTED DESPITE POSSIBLE EFFORTS BY PRESIDENT PEREZ' OPPONENTS TO STALL THE BILL. (UNCLASSIFIED) E-2 IMPDET.Y

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